

To: R6Press[R6Press@epa.gov]
From: Durant, Jennah
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[Daily News Digest 041718.pdf](#)

****Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.***

****To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.***

1 — West Fertilizer Plant Explosion: Five Years Later, KAGS, 4/16/18

<http://www.kagstv.com/article/news/west-fertilizer-plant-explosion-five-years-later/500-540247815>

Tuesday marks five years since an intentionally-set fire caused an explosion at the West Fertilizer Company in the small town of West, TX, killing 15 people, injuring more than 260 and damaging hundreds of homes.

2 — EPA finalizes guidelines to ebb Illinois River, Tenkiller Lake pollution, Tulsa World, 4/16/18

http://www.tulsaworld.com/homepagelatest/epa-finalizes-guidelines-to-ebb-illinois-river-tenkiller-lake-pollution/article_f2de85c0-46c8-5dec-99c4-3a84fc710fad.html

After decades of disagreement and litigation, it appears Arkansas and Oklahoma finally will be operating off the same page when it comes to Illinois River and Tenkiller Lake pollution sources.

3 — Houston-area toxic waste site removed from priority cleanup list, Texas Tribune, 4/13/18

<https://www.texastribune.org/2018/04/16/san-jacinto-waste-pits-removed-epa-priority-cleanup-list/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday that the San Jacinto Waste Pits are no longer on its "Emphasis List" of Superfund sites following a \$115 million agreement to remove toxic sludge from the site.

4 — Air of Uncertainty: Study shows cancer rate 'significantly higher' near manufacturing plant, Fox 8 New Orleans, 4/16/18

<http://www.fox8live.com/story/37970467/air-of-uncertainty-study-shows-cancer-rate-significantly-higher-near-manufacturing-plant>

Two sides of a cancer controversy involving a manufacturing plant in St. John the Baptist are claiming victory after an in-depth look at cancer rates by LSU researchers.

5 — Mighty Mississippi: Scientists use model in land loss fight, San Antonio Express-News, 4/16/18

<https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/science/article/Mighty-Mississippi-Scientists-use-model-in-land-12839817.php>

Scientists working on new ways to battle the erosion that threatens Louisiana's coastline have a dramatic new tool: a massive replica of the lower Mississippi River.

6 — Wildfires impact western Oklahoma, Midland Reporter-Telegram, 4/17/18

<https://www.fox23.com/news/wildfires-impact-western-oklahoma/732767154>

Due to high fire danger and wildfires that continue to impact Western Oklahoma, the State Emergency Operations Center remains activated. The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) is in contact with emergency managers in the affected areas.

7 — Editorial: NM needs to get serious about preventing fires, Albuquerque Journal, 4/17/18

<https://www.abqjournal.com/1159812/nm-needs-to-get-serious-about-preventing-fires.html>

It's only April, and it's already fire season in New Mexico, with blazes around Capitan, Grants and Tijeras. In the Albuquerque metro area, there have already been fires in the bosque and other areas of the county. It's clear this is likely going to be one doozy of a season.

8 — Drought Returns to Huge Swaths of U.S., Raising Fears of Shortages, Governing, 4/17/18

<http://www.governing.com/topics/transportation-infrastructure/sl-drought-water-shortage.html>

Less than eight months after Hurricane Harvey pelted the Texas Gulf Coast with torrential rainfall, drought has returned to Texas and other parts of the West, Southwest and Southeast, rekindling old worries for residents who dealt with earlier waves of dry spells and once again forcing state governments to reckon with how to keep the water flowing.

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9 — Smaller Bites in EPA Air Chief's Second Pass at Permitting Update, BNA, 4/16/18

<https://www.bna.com/smaller-bites-epa-n57982091147/>

William Wehrum has unfinished business with the EPA's air pollution permitting program for factories and power plants that want to expand or make major upgrades to their facilities.

10 — EPA Pesticide Approval Without Endangered Species Review in Farm Bill, Roll Call, 4/16/18

<https://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/epa-pesticides-endangered-species>

A provision in the 2018 farm bill would allow the EPA to approve pesticides without undertaking reviews now required to protect endangered species.

11 — Pruitt's grant ban hits advisory panel at critical time, E&E News, 4/16/18

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/04/16/stories/1060079173>

As an EPA scientific advisory panel inches toward a key juncture in its high-stakes review of Clean Air Act standards for particulate matter, some members are facing a now-familiar dilemma: Give up agency funding or leave the group.